

GRIC approves revenue sharing

[By Doug Murphy](#)

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By almost two-to-one Gila River Indian Community members voted Tuesday to approve a revenue sharing plan that will distribute casino profits among tribal members on a per capita basis.

Of the 3,200 ballots cast, 2,012 or 63 percent supported the per capita initiative, which calls for quarterly payments from the tribes various businesses, including its three casinos, to each enrolled tribal member.

Currently all profits from tribal owned businesses are taxed at 100 percent and go into the tribe's general fund.

The move could result in a \$60 million to \$100 million hit on the tribal budget, which could result in layoffs or at least a slowdown in development.

It's not clear if shifting that much money out of the tribe's budget will have any impact on the Tribal Council's opposition to giving up land for the construction of the South Mountain Loop 202 Freeway south of Pecos Road.

Before the election the task force estimated that each of the roughly 19,000 tribal members could get between \$2,000 and \$5,000 a year if the initiative passes.

But before any checks are issued the council must first develop the specific revenue allocation plan and amounts to be distributed.

Then the plan must be approved by the Federal Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Secretary of the Interior before going into effect.

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